BOOKS AND AUTHORS—REVIEWS AND COMMENT

LITERARY CRITICISM AND BOOK NEWS

Our Government, Its Checks and Balances-The Origin and Growth of Military Railroads-Lady Poore's Memoirs.

litics. That superstition man. That is still the prevailing view among Americans. But it is a view from which there are now many earnest dissenters. Dr. Elliott is one same body of voters; many State offi-

centralize governmental power and to temporary majorities. The theory of the Fathers, borrowed from Rousseau, The Federal model was adopted, with aggravations, by the States and political subdivisions of the States. As a consequence all our

ower, coupled with restraints on the fective rule of the majority. Almost from the beginning, the demof government bequeathed to us, we have tried to overcome its evil effects by indirection. Our political history is herefore full of experiments most of hem highly unsuccessful to make

overnmental machinery.
In the Federal field our elaborate of checks and balances is in measure still appropriate and orkable. The States stand as etween the central govern-the people. There must be

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while in mere cleverness, it fairly

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THE CONSTITUTION.

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND MAJORITY RULE By Edward Elliot, Ph. D. Seo, pp. vii. 175. Princeton University Press.

The defects of the checks and bal-

ances system have come more plainly to the surface in the State govern-ments. The best feature of the Federal It is the chief merit of Dr. Elliott's scheme was its vast concentration of book that it challenges boldly one of executive power in the hands of the most persistent superstition of President. But the States, especially applied to the newer ones, took Rousseauism very American politics. That superstition seriously. They reduced the powers of concerns the efficiency and wisdom of their Governors to a minimum. Many the system of government bequeathed Western Governors did not even have the framers of the Federal the veto. Executive functions were ion. Mr. Gladstone once divided among State officials, elected called the American Constitution the by the people and acting independently greatest single product ever struck of the Governor. Local self-governemergency by the brain of ment was pushed to an irrational ex-

same body of voters; many State officials, each with an autonomous status; home rule in cities and counties; a ment has been in itself a powerful obstacle to the attainment of true democracy in this country, to the development of national efficiency and to the vindication of majority rule.

The framers of the Federal Constitution set up an elaborate system of checks and balances, intended to decentralize governmental power and to Dr. Elliott has enumerated the many

and balances, intended to deze governmental power and to
individuals and minorities
oppression at the hands of
ary majorities. The theory of
control of the person and th there, borrowed from Rousseau, duickly leading to the scandals and quickly leading to the scandals and evils of the Spoils System. Much was become as tyrannical as any The Federal model was adopted, aggravations, by the States and

The party system has been tinkered with. Parties have been put under rigid State control, and the primary was introduced to restore the power of nomination as well as election to the voters. Elections have been freed of most of the coarser practices of corruption, but efficiency and true majority rule remain unattained. Popular recall of officials also has been tried, and recently the functions of the State legislatures have been abridged

tried, and recently the functions of the State legislatures have been abridged by the introduction of such clumsy devices as the initiative and the referendum.

These remedies have been inadequate, one and all, the author maintains, because they have all left untouched our inherited machinery of legislation and administration. The true remedy is to discard the theory that government is in itself an evil and must be kept in leading strings, and

present control over State expendie, the basis for efficient popular govment might soon he laid.

The author might have found much
port for his theories in the prodings of the New York State Conunitional Convention of 1915. That
y went a considerable distance in
ognizing the faults of the existing

There are chapters on railroad protection and destruction in war; on the
military railroad organizations of the

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tant Subject. THE RISE OF RAIL FOWER IN WAR AND CONQUEST. 1833-1914. By Edwin A. Pratt. With a bibliography. 8vo. pp. 411, 405. Philadelpids. J. B. Lappincott Company.



was asked by a travelling English woman calling to congratulate her: "And now, of course, you'll make a trip to England?" "England! No, thank you! Why,

kins and the University of Virginia. It deals with the development of the ex-ecutive department of the government and the expansion of the Cabinet. It has high value as a historical study and also as a work of reference.

a trip to England?"

"England! No, thank you! Why, that's where all the convicts came from."

Our author frankly envies the Australians their immense zest for living, their inexhaustible capacity for enjoyment and enthusiasm, which reached a wild climax on the occasion of the visit

Lady Poore tells many good stories, and some which Americans will recognize as old acquaintances, even in their new dress. Her reminiscences of Kitchener, Smith-Dorrien and others whom she has met are unimportant. She closes with a wistful chapter devoted to old naval friends and acquaintances who went down with their ships in the early days of the war.

VIEWS AND REVIEWS OF CURRENT FICTION

Rupert Hughes's Story of the American War Boom-W. Pett Ridge's Dickensian Flavor-"Private Gaspard"-More Exploits of Mason Brant.

the circus of Wall Street with its be-wildering booms, its sudden fortunes, its competences made on a "shoe-string." It is a whirling picture of a frantic period.

But Mr. Hughes starts his story further back than this, in the two lean years which preceded the war, and which brought us to the verge of a

top speed. Once they begin to read, they rarely stop until the end is they rarely stop until the end is the Anglo-American reader's sense of reached. So with this book. There is the Anglo-American reader's sense of love in it, and romance, and hard common sense, the froth of New York and a the book is well worth reading for the sense of the sense of the serious picture of the ject, according to an anecdote quoted by Lady Poore:

An old Australian lady who had mon sens mon sense, the froth of New York and a glimpse of the sober, serious existence of the majority of us as well. The book is crowded with figures, the mass of the city is there, and, if the picture he highly, sensationally colored, in the retrospect it tones down sufficiently to show the true proportions. And clearest of all stands out the rapid cinematograph of the whirling war boom through which the country has just massed.

THE THIRTEENTH COMMANDMENT. of a railroad system. Incidentally he THE THIRTEENTH COMMANDMENT. A novel live the first full-length picture of the war in America. Here are "war babies," here is a rushing review of the frantic business and speculation which were dental fact that the Englishman does be has been foreseen, except the accidentally he instructs his agent to bring back with him a \$2,000,000 diamond necklace for some property Flazz. 12me, po. 566. Harper & Bros.

This story is "un to the minute." York jeweller who is making it to deliver it to the Englishman. Needless to say that upper crookdom in this city gets wind of the affair. By the time the solicitor lands the Gray Ghost is ready for him. Not a link in the plot has been overlooked; everything possible has been foreseen, except the accidental fact that the Englishman does dental fact that the Englishman does. to erect a new governmental structure, the people. There must be dispersion of power, and the government by the people govern or to be go forms the crux of the plot.

THE KENNEDY PEOPLE.

body own a considerable distance. It becomes the tracking of the control of the c

French at war which it presents. This. proceeds apace. One of his friends in

the company is a journalist, another a schoolmaster. He is wounded, and in the hospital he learns to look upon priests and nuns with new eyes. Rethrough which the country has just passed.

LOOT.

LOOT.

LOOT. By Arthur Somes Boche. Houtrated by M. Leone Bracker. 12mo. rp. 220. Indianapelis. The Bebbs-Merrill Company.

An American expatriate resident in London, engaged to the Marquis of Moriton's only daughter and well satisfied with so august an alliance, sends his English solicitor to New York to vote his stock at a directors' meeting

manufacturer of artificial legs. Gas-pard is the child of Paris again, opti-mistic, impudent, witty, but—with a difference. He, too, has been shaped into the material that will go to the making of the France of to-morrow. MASON BRANT.

ESTERDAY she was but a slip

To-day she is deeply involved in a

terrible war, enmeshed in the secret

service systems and ensnared by love

Such is the suddenness with which

the Girl Philippa is thrust by fate into

the center of momentous events at

the opening of the European War.

An American artist, an English of-

32 Pictures by Frank Craig

cafe in Northern France.

of a girl, leading the unevent-

ful life of a cashier in a little

Your modern criminal is, first of all, a practical scientist, always a few steps ahead of the detectives in his employahead of the detectives in his employment of new discoveries. Electricity and nitro-glycerine, all sorts of chemical compounds and ingenious mechanical contrivances, he makes perverted use of them before their right use has become general. So Mason Brant has to deal with baffling cases in this new volume devoted to his ingenuity. To be sure, he does not despise such Holmesian trifles as the cigars men smoke and the boxes in which these cigars are put up, but they are only minor threads to be knotted in the process of linking up the major clews. There are three stories here. In the first, one of the most up-to-date discoveries of science is used with infernal intent and with devilish result. In the second nothing is used with infernal intent and with devilish result. In the second nothing more recent than a motor car is employed, but in a way in which it has probably never before been made to hide the traces of crime. And in the third, by way of climax, we have a combination of electricity and chemistry, not to mention were nistely as false not to mention mere pistols as false clews, a love letter and a vanishing liansom not a taxicab. And in each of the three stories there is a handsome roung general taxicab.

all the patented drugs and some of the toilet preparations are German. Curiously enough, while my beer is French, my milk is German! All these things have been purchased in the Paris markets without the slightest leaning toward, or preference for, articles coming from the Fatherland. I was not aware of the fact that I was buying German things. They sold themselves—the old combination of appearance, convenience and price, appearance, convenience and price, which will sell anything."

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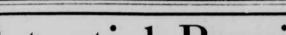
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PUBLISHERS' NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

land-Cosmo Hamilton's Busy Autumn Season.

Mrs. Margaret Deland, her first since
"The Iron Woman." James L. Ford is
at work on a new story of New York
life, which will deal in his usual humorous, trenchant way with the inside of
some big political manipulations of a
past generation.

For the Autumn.

Little Brown & Co.'s autumn fiction

The Hermit Doctor of
Gaya," in recalling an incident of her
childhood, "and my father's ideas or
the education of women would have
amazed even John Stuart Mill. He believed in girls being self-reliant and
independent. At the age of eleval
did things which I should never dear
did things which I should never dear
did things which I should never dear Mrs. Margaret Deland, her first since

OF ONE BLOOD.

OF ONE B. M. Bower; "Clover and Blue Grass," by Eliza Calvert Hall, author of "Aunt Jane of Kentucky"; "Chloe Malone," by Funnie Heaslip Lea, and "The Whale and the Grasshopper and Other Fables," by Seumas O'Brien.

The John Lane Company announces the twenty-third edition of "The Collected Poems" of the young English and the Grasshopper and Other Fables," by Seumas O'Brien. the twenty-third edition of "The Collected Poems" of the young English soldier-poet, to whose memory Yale has just paid a high tribute by award-fables," by Seumas O'Brien.

Cosmo Hamilton.

The coming autumn promises to be a busy season for Cosmo Hamilton.

His new novel, "The Sins of the Children," will be published by Little, dren," will be published by Little,

Company has just added "The Revela-

tions of a German Attaché: Ten Years of German-American Diplomacy," by

Emil Witte, who, say the publishers "gives a most intimate account of his

experiences with the German Embassy at Washington and at the Foreign Office in Berlin during the years 1898 to 1997."

"I lost my mother when I was fiv

A New Novel by Margaret De-

Among the Messrs. Harper's early A Self-Reliant Young Woman.

Little, Brown & Co.'s autumn fiction list includes "The Sins of the would be away travelling alone a Children," by Cosmo Hamilton, author piling up hotel bills in precectious a

Brown & Co.; a dramatization of his story of married life, "The Door That Has No Key," will be produced in Chicago, under the title of "The Mother Woman," and the Shuberts will put on a comedy which Mr. Hamilton has "Through Stained G"

INTERNATIONAL

active service with the Dardanelles ex-

George Agnew Chamberlain, the norelist, author of "John Bogardus," 'Through Stained Glass" and "Home," has just been appointed United States Consul General at Havana. Mr. Cham-berlain has been for several years consul at Lourenco Marquez, Portu-

FINANCE By Hartley Withers, Author of "The Meaning of Money."

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